

ExtractsV.D.L. note to be Tasmanian!Captain Beaufort to Sir John Franklin

Admiralty

June 10th 1840

No - no - my dear Franklin - there is no chance
I assure you of my forgetting one whose
principles are exalted - whose feelings are pure
- whose bland manner and frank temper
are so winning - whose enterprizes I admire -
whose friendship I feel to be an honour -
and whose affection for me I have never
doubted - still less likely to do so when he is
united to a woman with whom to be
acquainted is to value and to love her -
and who may be said by an easy
figure of speech, to have doubled all the
shining traits of his character.

In so far then my dear Sir John your letter
of February 19th is wrong; - in every other
respect its kindness is not only gratifying
but far more overwhelming than any reproaches
could have been.

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I received it only an hour ago and I have laid by Charts, Reports, and letters, to do at last what I have been intending to do every day this month past - to enclose to you a new edition of our North Polar chart.

You will find in it the continuity of coast of North America which has resulted from the discoveries of Messrs Dease and Simpson, superposed on Your's, Richardson's, and Back's.

Mr Dease now retires from the frozen but not inglorious field of Arctic discovery, but his colleague Simpson is now removing his depôts and his caches and his line of communication to the Fish, or Back River - and the summer of 1841 will probably carry him across the gulf, figured on Esquimaux authority, and enable him to determine finally the insularity or continentality of Boothia and thus to complete the contour of North America. x x

Pray tell my dear Lady Franklin that I am delighted by being so far strengthened in my views on terminology by her approbation, I fear however, to use Mr O'Connell's delicate

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expression - that I cannot "go the whole hog" with her in changing the name of your island to Diemenia or Tasmania. Its present name has become so legitimized in the public acts of this country that no convention^d agreement could well supplant it, nothing less I think than an act of Parliament either here or there. But Hobartⁿ if you will adopt it in your public character, I will at once insert ~~it~~ in all the charts that pass through my hands.

My dear Sir John and my dear Lady Franklin I beg of you to discard from your minds every and any connexion between the length or frequency of my letters and the truth or sincerity of my friendship and now and always believe me

Affectionately yours
J Beaufort